

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----071306 111050Z /16

O P 111000Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5178

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY HNTPPR

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7905

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, AF

SUBJ: REPORTED RESIGNATIONS OF FIVE AFGHAN CABINET MEMBERS,
INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: KABUL 7862

1. A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE INFORMED ME NOVEMBER 11
THAT HE HAD JUST COME FROM VISITING MINISTER-IN-CHARGE
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAHEED ABDULLAH AT HOME. THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD LET IT BE KNOWN SINCE NOVEMBER 7
THAT ABDULLAH WAS HOME SICK WITH HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE,
AND MY SOURCE HAD DONE WHAT MANY AFGHANS DO ON THE
FRIDAY SABBATH AND VISITED A SICK MAN AT HOME.

2. MY SOURCE TELLS ME THAT HE FOUND ABDULLAH NOT AT
ALL SICK. ON THE CONTRARY, ABDULLAH SAID THAT HE WAS
HOME BECAUSE HE AND FOUR OTHER CABINET MEMBERS HAD
SUBMITTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS TO PRESIDENT DAOUD
ON A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE INVOLVING THE RECENT
APPOINTMENTS TO THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE

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PARTY OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION (PNR) (REFTEL).
ABDULLAH SAID THE OTHER MINISTERS WERE AZIZULLAH
WASSIFI OF AGRICULTURE, DR. ABDULLAH OMAR OF
PUBLIC HEALTH, PROF WAFIULLAH SAMAYEE OF JUSTICE,
AND ONE OTHER WHOSE NAME MY SOURCE COULD NOT
RECALL. ABDULLAH SAID THAT DAOUD HAD NOT YET
ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATIONS. HE SAID IT IS A

MAJOR CRISIS AND TOLD MY SOURCE HE WANTED THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR AND ME INFORMED AND HAD NO

OBJECTION IF OTHER AMBASSADORS WERE TOLD. HE GAVE NO HINT AS TO THE EXACT NATURE OF THE MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. AS OTHER VISITORS WERE COMING IN, MY SOURCE WAS ABLE ONLY TO GET ONE FURTHER COMMENT FROM ABDULLAH TO THE EFFECT THAT HE AGREED THAT GENERAL HAIDER RASULI, MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND ONE MEMBER OF THE PNR CENTRAL COUNCIL, IS A GOOD MAN.

4. MY SOURCE ASKED THAT HIS NAME NOT BE REVEALED AND THAT THIS MATTER BE HELD MOST CLOSELY. HE SAID HIS ONLY COMMENT TO ABDULLAH WAS THAT HIS, ABDULLAH'S, RELATIONSHIP WITH DAOUD IS SO CLOSE THAT SURELY THIS MATTER CAN BE RESOLVED.

5. COMMENT: GIVEN THE CLOSE, ALMOST FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DAOUD AND ABDULLAH, THIS IS CERTAINLY A STARTLING DEVELOPMENT. THE FACT THAT ABDULLAH HAS DECIDED TO TELL THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ABOUT IT MAY WIDEN THE BREACH. UNTIL WE KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT THE ISSUE IS, IT IS HARD TO SPECULATE ON THE OUT-COME. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ABDULLAH AND HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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FRIENDS HAVE OBJECTED TO THE INCLUSION OF MINISTER OF FINANCE ABDULILAH OR, MORE LIKELY, OF FRONTIERS MINISTER ABDUL KAYUM TO THE PNR CENTRAL COUNCIL, OR THE EXCLUSION OF THEMSELVES OR OF NEW, MORE DYNAMIC MEN. OR THE ISSUE MAY BE MORE FUNDAMENTAL. OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF ABDULLAH'S GROUP, IT CAN BE SAID THAT WASSIFI IS AN EXPERIENCED POLITICIAN WITH STRONG TIES TO TRIBAL AREAS, SAMAYEE IS ONE OF AFGHANISTAN'S MOST RESPECTED ISLAMIC LEGAL SCHOLARS, AND OMAR IS AN ABLE TECHNOCRAT. WE WILL OF COURSE REPORT MORE AS WE LEARN MORE.

ELIOT

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